

Missouri State Archives

Finding Aid [998.005]

MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS

Marie Byrum Collection

Abstract: This is a Hannibal, MO Poll Book showing Marie Byrum as the first female voter and Harriet Hampton as the first female African American in Missouri – and possibly the nation – to cast votes after suffrage. Includes a photograph of Byrum.

Extent: 2 items

Physical Description: Paper; Photograph

Location: Missouri State Archives; Stacks

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Alternative Formats: PDF and TIFF

Access Restrictions: Access to the original poll book is restricted

Publication Restrictions: None

Preferred Citation: [item description]; [date]; *Marie Byrum Collection*, Record Group 998.005; Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City.

Acquisition Information: Gift; Accession #1972-0001

Processing Information: Processing completed by EW on 12/05/2016. Finding aid updated by EW on 03/23/2021.

HISTORICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Marie Ruoff Byrum was the first woman in Missouri (and possibly the country) to vote after the passage of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution. There was a special election held on August 31, 1920 in Hannibal to fulfill a vacancy on the Board of Aldermen. Mrs. Byrum's husband Morris K. Byrum was serving as an election judge. He encouraged his wife to be first in line to vote. She walked 15 blocks in drizzling rain and succeeded in appearing as

voter number one on the roll. The book also includes the name Harriet Hampton as the first female African American in Missouri – and possibly the nation – to cast votes after suffrage.

ADDITIONAL DESCRIPTIVE INFORMATION

Related Collections

Moments in Missouri History: Marie Byrum, a short video produced by the Archives in 2009:
https://www.sos.mo.gov/mdh/MMH/mmph_segments/byrum.

Archives Vertical File

Additional External Resources

Unknown

HANNIBAL, MO POLL BOOK, 1920

Arrangement: N/a

Scope and Content

This is a 23-page poll book for the August 31, 1920 Special Election held in Hannibal, Marion County, Missouri to fill a vacancy on the Board of Aldermen. Marie Byrum's name appears first in the book, distinguishing her as the first woman to vote after the passage of the 19th U.S. Constitutional Amendment. Also of note is the first African American woman to vote in Missouri: Harriet Hampton, number 102 in the poll book. The book is from the 1st Ward 1st Precinct in Mason Township.

A PDF of the first page is available on Manuscript DVD #1 in the Reference Room. High resolution TIFFs of pages 1 and 7 are on the Z Drive public folder.

Container List

Location	Box	Folder	Contents	Date
1A/1/1	1	15	Marie Byrum Poll Book	08/31/1920

PHOTOGRAPH, N.D.

Arrangement: N/a

Scope and Content

This is a copy of an original photograph loaned to the Archives for copying by the Byrum family. It is a portrait of Marie Byrum. The photograph has been digitized and is on the Z Drive.

Container List

Location	Box	Folder	Contents	Date
	1	15A	5"x7" copy print of a Marie Byrum portrait	n.d.